



## Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

TO: School Administrators

FROM: Stan Johnson

DATE: July 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Online Personal Finance Test

The online Personal Finance Test will be available again for school districts to use during 2008-09. The test may be used for students in the following situations:

- Students who are enrolled in a personal finance course: The online assessment is **OPTIONAL**. Participation, however, permits the district to evaluate student achievement with an assessment fully aligned to state standards.
- Students who are receiving personal finance credit from embedded coursework: The online assessment is **REQUIRED**. However, the pass rate is the district's decision.
- Students attempting to "test out" and receive personal finance credit toward graduation: The online assessment is **REQUIRED**. Students must attain a score of 90% or higher to receive personal finance credit. Students attempting to "test out" may attempt the test one (1) time per testing window.

A minimal annual fee allows all eligible students in the district to take advantage of the online assessment. An invoice, based on the scale below, will be generated upon initial enrollment in the personal finance system:

Size of Total District Population	Yearly Access Fee
1-200 Students	\$100
201-400 Students	\$200
401-800 Students	\$300
801-2000 Students	\$400
2001-8000 Students	\$500

During 2008-09, the personal finance assessments will be available during the following time periods:

- August 18 – September 12, 2008 – Federal Reserve Study Participants Pre-Test
- October 13 – October 17, 2008 Operational Window
- December 1 – January 23, 2009 Operational Window
- January 5 – February 6, 2009 Federal Reserve Study Participants Pre-Test

- February 17 – April 10, 2009 Operational Window
- May 4 – June 30, 2009 Operational Window
- July 6 – August 31, 2009 Operational Window

Field-testing of the personal finance assessment will occur in the fall and the spring. Districts participating in the field test will be able to access performance data for their students. Details about this opportunity will be provided in August 2008.

Districts must provide computer access for all test-takers. The test consists of one 50-minute session. Testing groups may enroll on different days to accommodate multiple testing groups. Please note: Test forms vary so students' test screens may not look the same.

You should access a PDF version of the User Guide and Student Guide at the following web addresses:

[http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/mopfa\\_system\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/mopfa_system_user_guide.pdf)

[http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/mopfa\\_student\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/mopfa_student_user_guide.pdf)

You must follow the instructions in these guides to successfully log on and complete the test. Log in at this address to set up your account: <https://pfa.missouri.org/>. (Refer to page 7 of the User Guide to obtain information on user name, password, and approval.)

The District Test Coordinator/Contact must approve the School Test Coordinator and Examiner prior to test administration. Please refer to the User Guide for complete instructions.

Should you have questions regarding this online process, please email or call

Primary Contact:

[Bill.Gerling@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Bill.Gerling@dese.mo.gov)

(573) 751-0398

General inquiries about Personal Finance administration can be directed to 800-845-3545 or emailed to [webreplysimperfin@dese.mo.gov](mailto:webreplysimperfin@dese.mo.gov).